

Preventing Respiratory Illnesses

As concerns grow regarding the spread of the Coronavirus, the Flu and other respiratory illnesses, we continue to pray that they are contained and controlled. Ensuring cleanliness to prevent the spread, we follow the policies of the Archdiocese, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Centers for Disease Control and Protection (<https://www.cdc.gov/>).

What We Do at Church:

Priests and Eucharistic Ministers:

1. Stay home if they are sick, following the at home guidelines below
2. Properly store wine and hosts
3. Properly sanitize all vessels prior to use
4. Sanitize their hands just prior to offering communion
5. If the Precious Blood is offered at Mass, ensure the Chalice is turned and thoroughly wiped with a clean section of the purificator cloth before offering the Precious Blood to the next communicant

What You Can Do at Home:

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends everyday preventative actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses such as Coronavirus, flu and the common cold:

1. Stay home when you are sick
2. Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds before eating or use a 60%+ alcohol-based hand sanitizer
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Cover your cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow
4. Clean and disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe

What You Can Do at Church:

1. Bring and use hand sanitizer before communion and after coughing or sneezing into your hands.
2. Exercise your choice when greeting others, holding hands and/or receiving communion. A friendly word or nod of the head can be used to greet one another. A smile to your neighbor can be done instead of holding their hand during the Lord's Prayer. Staying in the pew or walking forward for Communion with your arms folded across your chest will indicate to the Eucharistic Minister that you would like to be blessed, but not receive Communion.
3. Pray for those affected by these serious viruses, that they may receive the strength and care needed to assist them in their recovery.